

Dear members of the FCC,

The Pappas broadcasting attempt to tilt the electoral playing field by simply giving away advertising to Republican candidates would only be a development unworthy of attention from the FCC if this were Soviet Russia, where an official media is expected to do just these sorts of favors for the ruling party.

As it is, this is in fact still America, this is an outrageous violation of any semblance of fairness in broadcasting, and the FCC simply must act at once to discourage Pappas's action.

Further cute statements from the chairman, Mr. Powell, pretending to misunderstand the issues involved--as when he noted that the FCC "couldn't ban" Sinclair's broadcast of a 42-minute Swift Boat attack ad, which no one was asking him to do (enforcing equal-time provisions, even to the minimal extent of simply requesting that Sinclair accept the millions in Democratic money on offer to broadcast a rebuttal to its propaganda, would have been fine)--will simply confirm that he is a partisan hack rather than a public servant.

Believe it or not, I am in the public, too, even though I am not a Republican; I am forced to help pay Mr. Powell's salary; and if he can't publicly identify this action by Pappas as a violation of every norm the FCC has historically tried to enforce in American broadcasting--in the service of the public interest as a whole, not just one party's members; there are reasons for these norms--I hope he is held by history in the total contempt that at that point he will have earned.

And if the chairman, waist-deep in political debt to the administration that employs his father as Secretary of State, again refuses to act or comment, I see no reason that individual commissioners' should not do so.

Please make sure that this email is read by the commissioners.

Sincerely,

Peter Silver